IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended) A transferring unit comprising:

~~(a) a recording material having a finely roughened surface, said surface comprising a plurality of raised portions having a height of from 5 to 20 μm and a pitch of from 50 to 500 μm;~~

~~(b) a transferring film comprising a transferable protective layer provided on a heat-resistant substrate, said substrate comprising a polyethylene terephthalate film;~~

~~(c)~~ (a) feed means for superimposing ~~the~~ a transferring film atop ~~the~~ a recording material to form a laminated sheet with ~~the~~ a transferable protective layer of the transferring film atop ~~the~~ a finely roughened surface of the recording material, the finely roughened surface comprising a plurality of raised portions having a height of from 5 to 20 μm and a pitch of from 50 to 500 μm, and the transferring film comprising a transferable protective layer provided on a heat-resistant substrate, said substrate comprising a polyethylene terephthalatic film:

~~(d)~~ (b) press-bonding means for heating and pressing the laminated sheet to cause the transferable protective layer to bond to the finely roughened surface of the recording material, said press-bonding means comprising a receiving member and transferring pressure roll means, including a transferring pressure roll, for pressing against the transferring film while the laminated sheet is being heated, said receiving member and transferring pressure roll being disposed adjacent each other with a gap therebetween, said feed means feeding the laminated sheet through the gap between the transferring pressure roll and the receiving member, said

transferring pressure roll comprising a cylindrical roll main body and an elastic material layer which covers a surface of the roll main body, said elastic material layer comprising an elastic material with a hardness of less than HA40 as measured by a measuring method defined in JIS-K6253; and

~~(c)~~ (c) peeling means for peeling the heat-resistant substrate off the laminated sheet heated and pressed by the press-bonding means; said feed means feeding the laminated sheet from the press-bonding means to the peeling means.

Claim 10 (previously presented) The transferring unit as defined in claim 9, wherein the thickness of the heat-resistant substrate is from 4 to 20 μm.

Claim 11 (previously presented) The transferring unit as defined in claim 9, wherein the thickness of the transferable protective layer is from 2 to 20μm.

Claim 12 (previously presented) The transferring unit as defined in claim 9, wherein the transferable protective layer comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of acrylic copolymer, acryl-styrene copolymer, vinyl acetate resin, vinyl acetate copolymer, vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate copolymer, vinyl chloride-acryl copolymer, vinyl acetate-acryl copolymer and acryl-silicone copolymer.

Claim 13 (previously presented) An ink jet recording apparatus comprising:

(a) the transferring unit of claim 9; and

(b) ink jet recording means for ejecting an ink onto the finely roughened recording surface of the recording material, said feed means feeding the recording material past the ink jet recording means prior to alignment of the recording material with the transferring film.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The transferring unit as defined in claim 9, wherein the thickness of the elastic material layer is from 0.2 to 5 mm.

Claim 15 (previously presented) A recording method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a recording material having a finely roughened recording surface comprising a plurality of raised portions having a height of from 5 to 20 μm and a pitch of from 50 to 500 μm;

(b) providing a transferring film having a transferable protective layer and a heat-resistant substrate, said heat-resistant substrate comprising a polyethylene terephthalate film;

(c) forming an ink image on the recording surface by ejecting an ink onto the recording surface;

~~(c)~~ (d) superimposing the transferring film atop the recording material with the transferable protective layer of the transferring film atop the ink image on the recording surface of the recording material; and

~~(d)~~ (e) bonding the transferable protective layer to the recording surface by pressing the transferable protective layer against the recording surface with a transferring pressure roll while heating whereby to form a protective layer on the ink image; the transferring pressure roll

comprising a cylindrical roll main body and an elastic material layer which covers a surface of the roll main body and contacts the transferring film during the pressing, the elastic material layer comprising an elastic material having a hardness of less than HA40 as measured by a measuring method defined in JIS-K6253.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The recording method as defined in claim 15, further comprising the step of:

~~(e)~~ (f) peeling the heat resistant substrate from the transferring film.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The recording method as defined in claim 15, wherein the elastic material is selected from the group consisting of silicone rubber, natural rubber, synthetic natural rubber, styrene rubber, butadiene rubber, chloroprene rubber, butyl rubber, nitrile rubber, ethylene propylene rubber and fluororubber.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The recording method as defined in claim 15, wherein the thickness of the elastic material layer is from 0.2 to 5 mm.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The recording method as defined in claim 15, wherein a thickness of the heat-resistant substrate is from 4 to 20 μm.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The recording method as defined in claim 15, wherein a thickness of the transferable protective layer is from 2 to 20 μm.

Claim 21 (previously presented) The recording method as defined in claim 15, wherein the transferable protective layer comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of acrylic copolymer, acryl-styrene copolymer, vinyl acetate resin, vinyl acetate copolymer, vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate copolymer, vinyl chloride-acryl copolymer, vinyl acetate-acryl copolymer and acryl-silicone copolymer.

Claim 22 (previously presented) The recording method as defined in claim 15, wherein a surface temperature of the elastic material layer is from about 90°C to 110°C.

Claim 23 (previously presented) The recording method as defined in claim 15, wherein a linear pressure of the elastic material layer is from 5 to 10 kN/m.